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No. 23 30 NOVEMBER 1987 Atiu- Cook Islands

PARLIAMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

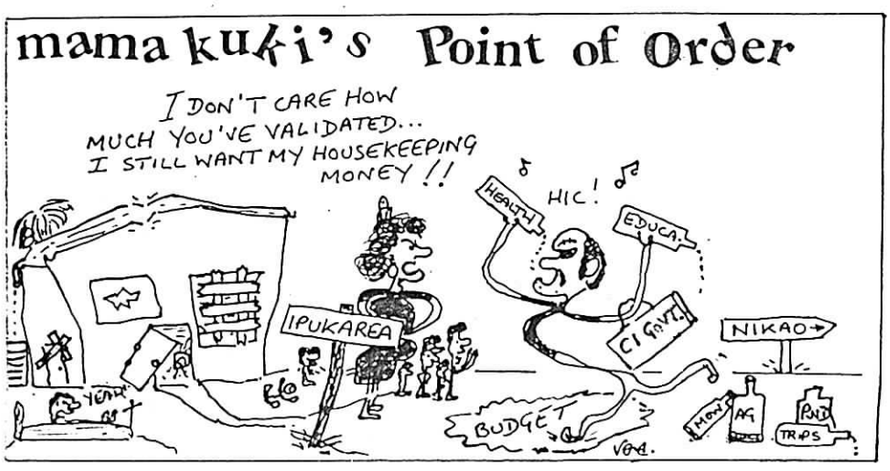
INSIDE

...PARLIAMENT TAKES HOLD OF THE SPENDING ISSUE.....A NEW MOVE IN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ....MATEPI SHAPES UP IN EDUCATION.....THE COOK ISLANDS LATEST TOP TEN.....EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL SPORT FROM MANGAIA...THE SPG TEAM GETS ITS CASH.....AND MANY OTHER UP TO THE MINUTE NEWS OF THE REAL COOK ISLANDS!!!!!

"validation" hard line from Henry

"The Ministers cannot blame anyone other than themselves for this over expenditure. This money was interfered with...The Hon. Raymond Pirangi said, you leave the Minister of Finance to me. After I have dealt with him he will end up on his back side."

-Geoffrey Henry, Leader of Opposition.



THE MAN HIMSELF! ONCE AGAIN THE UNBEATABLE..... KUKI AIRANI TANE....
-inside-

RAROTONGA..a back alley near Foodland.

Enter Heavy:

HEAVY: E koe!
JOURNAL: Who me ?
HEAVY: That's right. You. Norman George's mouthpiece! You wanna know summit?
JOURNAL: Yes please.
HEAVY: Your man's NEVER gonna make it. (exit)

Enter Small Heavy:

SMALL HEAVY: I've been waiting for you.
JOURNAL: Thank you.
SMALL HEAVY: I know what you're up to. Undermining Norman George and creeping round Geoffrey. (exit)

Enter Enormous Heavy:

ENORMOUS HEAVY: Hey you! Why you give Vincent two pages and Geoffrey five ?
JOURNAL: Well...I suppose it's equal to the members they have in Parliament..er..
ENORMOUS HEAVY: Not good enough. Cook Islands News treats them both absolutely equal.
JOURNAL: Oh ? How's that ?
ENORMOUS HEAVY: Nothing to either of them. Fair, see.

"No, but seriously

When the JOURNAL was first published, it was recognised that editorial neutrality would be a tough objective.

We are a country, as Vincent Ingram observed in Parliament this year, which is highly politicised.....in a certain way.

The way is not the way a society can be "politicised" overseas.

In a large population "politicisation" means a total social stance.

It involves where you live, what you do for a living, what you eat, what you drink, where you go for leisure or holidays, what you read, whom you marry and so on...

Politicisation leads to the "club" structure. In its extreme "British" form the entry fees involve education, bloodstock, income and accent among others.

We don't have that.

What characterises CIs. politicisation is that it exists within the structure of a society which forces its members to live alongside each other.

The dangerous position to assume is the one where no one is quite sure what you are or where you're at. Neutrality in the Cook Islands is a threat. This is a small sign of our political immaturity.

The JOURNAL belongs to no "club". It may thus expect to be a small threat. That threat will diminish in proportion to the growing increase in our political maturity. "

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POLITICS

A Special JOURNAL in-depth look at the Validation of Over-Expenditure Bill and an excellent Parliamentary debate.

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Tourism looks to its local development and the JOURNAL meets the man who is fronting a special drive in awareness among the people.

LIVING

Exclusive from Mangaia comes the 1987 CIBBA National Championships plus news of the SPG latest and a first time regular feature from the world of music.

VERA

Who moved Takutea ? Who stole Terepai's compass ? Who's the latest hope for gold in Noumea ? Why did Tepou ? For the answers, try the Pidgeon Fanciers' Weekly or if you can't get a copy turn to Page 14.

THE JOURNAL

"Get to know the REAL Cook Islands"

a national publication.

The JOURNAL is a weekly review of life and events in the Cook Is. Polynesia and the World from an independent regional standpoint.

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POLITICS

- validation

-Geoffrey Henry (CIP) Leader of the Opposition.

"I will not support it."

THE UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE VALIDATION BILL

- A Bill to validate the expenditure of government unauthorised under the Constitution for the years ending 31 March 1985 and 1986.
- In 1985 the expenditure over the sum appropriated or authorised by law was $237,597.
- In 1986 unauthorised expenditure was $726,478.

After the last session of Parliament, the listening public was ready for anything when the National legislative body re-opened for business last week.

The last session was like a disorderly 3rd Form meeting.

It started with the class captain being thrown out.

It ended with most of the class playing truant.

What a complete turn around there was this time.

The whips were out in force. The international airlines as far away as Barbados had been alerted.

And there was a full turn-out!

More to the point, both teams were in top form.

If the first week was a sign of things to come, Nikao-listeners should be in for an excellent couple of weeks' debating.

Mr. Ingram, as expected, was sharp and alert; Sir Thomas made a welcome elder statesmanlike comeback speech; Mr. Henry was Prime ministerially serious and "oppositionally" cutting; Mr. Puna was like a terrier with the Education bone; Mr. George was strangely aloof; Mr. Matepi spoke in new ministerial rhythms; Mr. Mare didn't bring up his bus contracts and Mr. Pirangi was...Mr. Pirangi!

All in all, Mr. Speaker presided over a House which was serious and professional at heart.

Supporters of all sides and factions

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THEY SAID IT!

Almost every member rose to add his piece to the debate. In the final tally, only Leader of the Opposition Geoffrey Henry and Mangaian Opposition Democratic Party MP Papamama Pokino refused to support the Bill.

*..don't rapu too much to taakama the former PM and put yourselves in the vaarua at the same time. (V.Ingram)

*..the money was used very wisely (P. Robati)

*..they don't want the people to know what is happening...(I. Akaruru)

*..it is the equivalent of washing up dirty socks...(N. George)

*..the first department(to overspend) was the Ministry of Agriculture and I say, Good! (V. Tairea)

*..the Honourable Ingram is not an economist..(M. Matepi)

*..The Demo Davis is being validated not the democratic Ingram..(N. Puna)

*..The unauthorised expenditure will be left to the judgment of the People (D. Kamana)

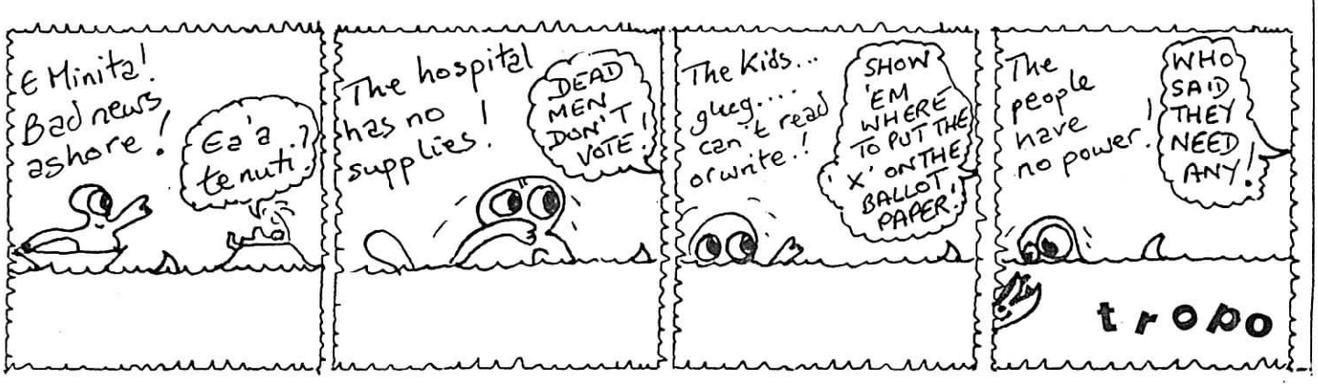
*..any over expenditure was to help our people (T. Maoate)

*..the intention of this Bill is to validate a wrong caused by the Coalition government...(P. Pokino)

*..in spite of the unauthorised expenditure you have a balanced budget. (T.Davis)

the quoruMs

(AN EVERYDAY TALE OF POLITICAL FOLK)


E Minita! Bad news, ashore!
Ea'a tenuti?
The hospital has no supplies.
DEAD MEN DON'T VOTE!
The Kids... gueg.... can't read orwrite!
SHOW 'EM WHERE TO PUT THE 'X' ON THE BALLOT PAPER!
The people have no power.
WHO SAID THEY NEED ANY!
tropo

POLITICS

PARLIAMENT

(ctd..from Page 3)

represented could have felt some encouragement.

Oppositions attacked with facts. Government defended with counter-facts. Rhetoric was at a minimum and, although stirring eloquence was perhaps postponed for election year, Week One was a hard-working debate of important national issues which will restore a measure of credibility to the democratic process.

Money

All of which throws the onus back on the media to do a similarly professional job of analysis.

Consequently, the JOURNAL has spent many an hour playing back the debates in an endeavour to offer the best our limited resources can offer.

Although quite an amount of business was covered during the week, including an expectedly lengthy debate on old aged pensions (with everyone vying for the title of "Biggest Heart of the Day", it was the Validation of Over-expenditure Bill which proved to be by far the most important item of the week.

In many ways, the Bill can be regarded as the most important to have been debated in the lifetime of the 3 Coalitions.

It is in this light therefore that we devote most of our Politics Section this week to one bill, the Unauthorised Expenditure Validation Bill.

As Minister George pointed out, putting right over-expenditure and restoring it to a place within Parliamentary authority is a recognised procedure.

It is not a step, normally, which is a way (to paraphrase Papamama Pokino) of giving a blessing to wrong-doing.

Sir Thomas Davis was Minister of Finance in the periods under consideration.

Sir Thomas' in-House style (which is reported to irritate more than a few members) is all too frequently that of the all-knowing lecturer addressing a rather backward class. It was in this manner that he addressed the over-expenditure issue.

For once, it served a good purpose.

Sir Thomas clarified areas of public misunderstanding.

Unauthorised expenditure, he rightly pointed out, is not the same as over-spending in the sense of misappropriation.

Dilemma

Indeed, as Parliamentary estimates do not necessarily take into consideration all future income, a situation can arise whereby unauthorised expenditure still ends up within a balanced budget.

Such a scenario as calmly described by the former PM is the one Government offered to Parliament to explain the million dollar overspending (or unauthorised expenditure in the years 1985 and 1986).

They were faced, they claimed, with the dilemma of funding national projects such as the Mini-Games for which no firm estimates could be made.

(NOTE: For Comment on the Mini-Games, see BOX).

Sir Thomas' aside that Government, in the form of the PM and current Minister of Finance Dr. Robati, were "less than honest" in the matter of public expenditure without authorisation, appears to many Parliamentary observers over the last three years, to have substance.

Mr. V. Ingram (Nikao/Panama) ...watching for the loopholes.

Sir Thomas' performance was an impressive one and contrasted with that of several Government members.

The fact that some members of Government did, in fact, seem to not understand what Unauthorised Expenditure is and arrived prepared to defend themselves against expected charges of misappropriation did not say much for the Minister of Finance's leadership.

Many members of Government attempted to offer rhetorical "defences" in the name of "courage".

The postures were unnecessary. They could have simply followed Sir Thomas' line and kept the whole debate nice and tight.

The "tight" case is simply put:

*Unauthorised Expenditure can be properly dealt with under the Constitution.

*Unauthorised Expenditure was inevitable in the periods under consideration.

*To some extent it was continually being balanced against unexpected income.

*Procedures for approving such Expenditure were similarly approved across party lines in 1982.

The government's problem was that they could not sit on the "tight" case as there were several loopholes for which Mr. Ingram and Mr. Henry were watching closely.

Watch

What resulted, therefore, was a much more interesting debate than might have been envisaged and one which cast a great deal of light upon our three or four major political groupings.

As it turned out, no better predictor of policy stances by the factions could have been on offer than the intriguing thrusts of the Validation Bill debate.

The difficulties government faced were easily calculable had they chosen to present what we have called the "tight" case.

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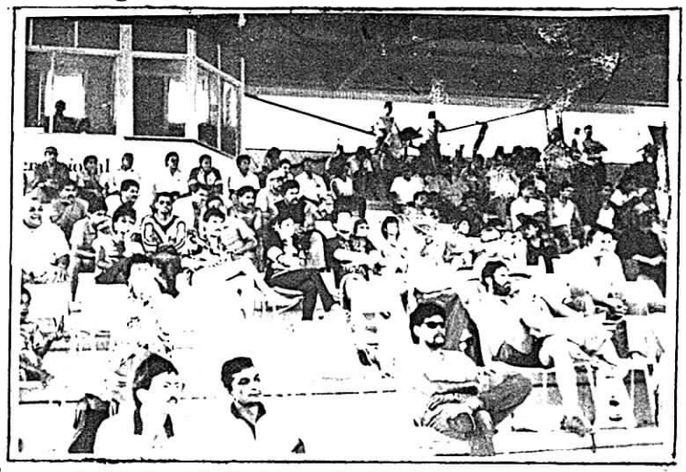

The $1½M (est) National Stadium Grandstand, cause of over-expenditure in 1985

POLITICS

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*Why, if they presented such a simple straighforward argument, did they then need to sack Sir Thomas the architect of the years of over expenditure ?

*Where, if extra income has come in to balance the budget, is the additional income and why has it not all been offered to Parliament for Appropriation?

*Why, in over three years of unauthorised expenditure, was a supplementary budget not introduced ?

*Why in 12 months from mid 1985 to mid 1986 did the Government fail to recall Parliament if it needed to over spend ?

No nice "tight" and simple case for unauthorised expenditure can include answers to the above and a few other tricky ones!

Hence, government apparently decided to opt for rhetoric.

That is to say, those (Mr. George and Mr. Matepi for example) who appeared to understand the options available. (Which didn't appear to include the PM whose lamentable start in being called properly to order for procedure breaches and opening his speech by blaming everything on Sir Tom was matched by a lame finish in which he gave a convoluted explanation of why he blamed Sir Tom but perhaps shouldn't have!)

Sir Thomas Davis (Avatiu) -strong comeback

Mr. George chose to try to fudge the issue as a "necessary evil" which set the tone for government.

They were lucky.

The CIP opposition had a fatal weakness. They were part of the early overspending, especially the ones involved in voting money for their particular sports codes!

And, initially, they floundered.

Stage

It took the return of Mr. Henry (sick on Day 1) to remind them that he, at least, was not going to lose hold of what has been his prime attack on government for two years -their record on overspending.

He was NOT going to let the Coalition Heavies, George and Matepi, include HIM in their cosy little overspending package.

No, Sir!

Mr. Henry took the hard line throughout his lengthy speech.

Rescuing some of the CIP independence from Coalition spending, he accused the government of going "haywrire" after he and his colleagues left the Coalition.

He held centre stage convincingly and lobbed off some effective sword thrusts at high-spending Raymond Pirangi, long-travelling Ben Toma and at new Minister Matepi who we learn has joined the ranks of Rarotongan householders occupying government premises. (although not yet renting out his own!)

Mr. Ingram had earlier mounted his usual itemised attack on governmental finance (including the controversial $800,000 on travel released by the JOURNAL a couple of weeks ago). This combined with Mr. Pokino's populist outrage and Sir Thomas' aristocratically disdainful lecture to government and added up to a powerful opposition assault on government.

The result of the debate was, of course, never in doubt. Westminster systems don't work that way.

What the system is designed to reveal through debate, however, are strengths and weaknesses and political strategies.

In terms of win and loss, the debate was nevertheless interesting.

The Government probably did, on balance, accomplish their primary objective. The issue of pure overspending

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Their Pic

Top of the overseas cartoons this week is the Economist's look at our good friend President Mitterand of France up to his nose in scandal at present...including sending a patrol boat to Raro days after letting off the biggest bomb in the world!

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Dr Robati (Rakahanga).... Prime Minister & Minister of Finance in the Coalition

has been ushered away from its exposed position and, if not placed out of sight, at least camouflaged reasonably effectively. It seems as if they have made a case for over-spending in "the national interest".

MOW will be delighted, one supposes.

It is a dangerous success, especially with an election year approaching.

Sir Thomas, of course, could hardly oppose.

The CIP's did not effectively divorce themselves from the over spending (and probably cannot).

Mr. Henry, Mr. Ingram and Mr. Pokino were as powerful in defeat as Dr. Robati was impotent in victory.

In spite of Mr. George's effective "fudging" rhetoric overall, the opposition can probably take heart from the fact that travel still stands out as a separate issue and Ben Tema's curious need to go to a World Finance meeting as Assistant to the Finance Minister of a non-independent economy involving 17000 people will not have helped Government's case!

Ideologically, the Coalition can be judged from this debate to be either extremely pragmatic or ideologically bankrupt without Sir Thomas' totalitarian instincts fashioning its policies.

Mr. George and Mr. Matepi apart (as conventional right wing pragmatists) plus Dr. Maoate who doesn't seem sure whether to spend or not, the rest of government appear content to emerge in public view from this debate as fond parents with an unexpected windfall ready to spend it impulsively on whatever their children seem to need at the time....today a road, tomorrow a stadium... next week...a patrol boat.

Some call it "working for the people" others haven't yet found a name for it!

But, to be fair, lots of coalitions work that way and few last as long as ours have done!

The opposition is much more traditional.

Coalition

The debate shows Mr. Henry offering an austere disciplined image. His most powerful personal attraction, revealed in the debate, is his belief in a return to a significant degree of Central Planning...and Central Budgetting.

Mr. Ingram continues, with Mr. Pokino, to be outstanding.. ..as an opposition.

Their accomplishment, for two MP's out on a limb, is once more revealed as quite exceptional.

But there are several others like them around the Commonwealth Parliaments... in opposition.

They offer a less idiosyncratic right wing economic platform than Sir Thomas'.

It is classic, reasoned free enterprise (known on the left as "fascism with a heart" ...as opposed to Sir Thomas' which is judged the same..minus the heart!)

The Coalition are offering the fun of the fair...spend, roll or bowl a ball, jump on the merry-go round, and go see Good Uncle Francois when you run out of cash.

It hurts far less than anything the opposition have to offer.

Mr. George called the Validation Bill "an historic act of national responsibility"!

Weeell.....maybe.

What it did do was to bring us back a Parliament worth listening to and some substance which merits analysis, however imperfectly!

The lightweights were light. The Heavies were on form. The Constitution once again held good and Democracy had a good airing!

What more can you ask for the price of half a dozen ever-ready specials!

Stay tuned!

THE GAMES

Crucial to any justification of over-spending in the years 1984-6 are the 2nd. South Pacific Mini-Games. The Games ended up a joint venture by Government and the National Sports Association, although in overall input, few could argue that by the end the Games were to all intents and purposes a Government Games with assistance from private sector volunteers. A harsh judgment, but proveable! Complicating CIP opposition to Government overspending is the fact that deeply involved in the financing (and overspending) involved were those of their members holding cabinet office in Coalition I. The 150,000 dollar profit for the Games, published in the JOURNAL some months ago and released officially last week was occasioned largely by enormous $US per diems charged visiting teams (inflated owing to $NZ falls at the time). Government has often stated privately that the public (i.e. Government) are entitled to that profit to offset over-spending on the Games. Last week Government released $60,000 to the Association for the SPG trip - a move that can be viewed from three standpoints..that government is irresponsible... that the public (CISOA) are irresponsible ...that no one really sees overspending as a great problem!

It seems an age ago now..but this is what the stadium used to be like. Value for money ? (ph. D. Lewis 1980 CIAAA National Championships)

POLITICS

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The Facts

We conclude our analysis of the Validation Bill with the following summary of debate.

As was observed earlier, eloquence was at a premium in Parliament's first week back in session.

Much in evidence was solid debating.

Those who regard Parliament as a luncheon club were revealed clearly.

What they had to offer was ill- or un-researched and usually degenerated into personality attacks or "in" jokes.

This is not to say that we do not recognise that a Parliamentary "team" will have its special strategies in debate and to some members a role of "niggling-disrupting-all-round-clown" will be assigned. It is an accepted role. Commentators have to be careful to spot who is playing it and who is acting the fool because that's the way he is!

As will be seen in the summary below, the front-line speakers last week gave good value in terms of letting the public hear democracy at work.

To conclude, then, our analysis of the Validation Bill, here are some of the main points made:

MR INGRAM:

The Democratic Party between 1978 and 1982 not once expended unauthorised money.

....Agriculture and Fisheries overspent under the Coalition $100,000; the PM's Department $496,000; MOW $439,000;
...(and) if we look at the travel vote item, the Government members overspent $800,000 on travel last year.

MR AKARURU:

We have heard the reason by the Hon. Member Vincent Ingram that the reason why they booted out the former PM was because he was trying to control over-expenditure.

MR GEORGE:

My understanding from the report of the then Minister of Finance in 1985-6 is that we have a balanced budget...I have no reason to disbelieve it. I can only assume that the overexpenditure was due to extra revenue items that the Government received.

MR. I. AKARURU (Pukapuka) CIP Deputy Parliamentary Leader & Shadow Spokesman on Works and Energy.

MR MATEPI:

In 1985-6, there was an increase in the per capita GDP. People did not go broke as the Hon Member Vincent Ingram is suggesting.

MR PUNA:

This is the attitude we should adopt - ministerial travel must be cut to a minimum.

MR POKINO:

In 1984 we are trying to validate over $200,000...in 1986 over $700,000. I fear to see how much unauthorised expenditure has been incurred for 1987 and how much will be incurred for the year 1988.

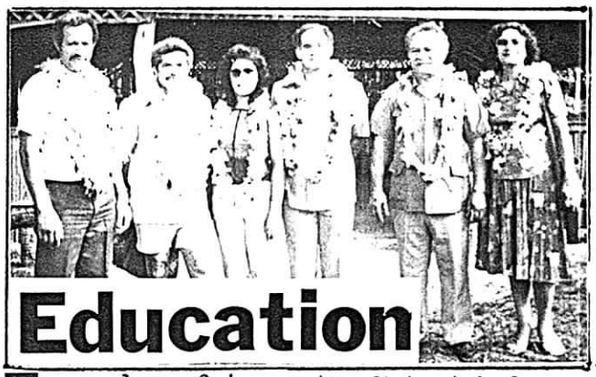
MR HENRY:

There should be a provision whereby Ministers are penalised for overexpending money under their control...This (over-expenditure) did not happen because of anything beyond Government's control. There was no natural disaster like a hurricane at the time.

SIR THOMAS DAVIS:

In 1971 there was overexpenditure of $65,757, at the time more than one tenth of the budget; that was validated in 1971. In 1982 we validated an over-expenditure from 1971 of just under $1.m. This was between 15 and 20% of the budget. In 1985 we are now seeking to validate overexpenditure of just over 2% and another very small % for 1986. This puts (the present matter) into perspective.

WHO PAYS ?



Education

Even close friends of new Education Minister Matepi Matepi have begun to express dismay at his performance in the first few weeks of office!

He is, they claim, getting too good at his job!

After several years of seeing their vote item steadily decrease in value, many teachers had been relying upon Shadow Spokesman Ngereteina Puna fight the Education battles.

The two MP's clashed formerly for the first time in the House last week on the teacher shortage crisis.

In contrast to previous Ministers (one of whom will be forever remembered as the one who didn't turn up for the Budget Debate!), Minister Matepi had presented a written reply to Mr. Puna.

Noted Opposition Demo leader, Vincent Ingram "This is the first time, a minister in this Government has given such a direct answer."

Mr. Puna also thanked the Minister for a "very good answer".

All of which, say some teachers, is very nice. But with the opposition unable to "hammer" Mr. Matepi effectively, where does that leave the dire problems of the profession. Hence the dismay!

ABOVE: The Education team on a recent visit to Atiu. L-R Acting Sr Inspector Ngatokorua, Personnel Officer Pureau; Permanent Secretary Short and Minister Matepi (with Secretarial staff)

ECONOMICS

TOURISM

business talk

Among all the ever increasing numbers of Rarotongan hoteliers, restaurateurs and tourism operators, Jack Cooper has had a tougher year than most.

His Avarua wharf-front luxury dining establishment "Trader Jack's" was demolished by Hurricane Sally in January.

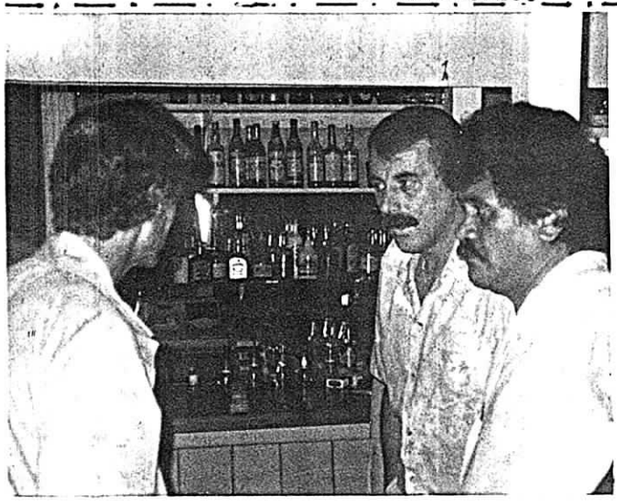
It now stands almost alone as a lingering monument to the multi-million dollar disaster.

"Trader Jack's" may be taking time to recover but its owner, NZ lifetime career restaurateur Jack Cooper has already bounced back into prominence among those looking to place the booming tourist industry on some solid local foundations.

While waiting for time to rebuild "Trader Jack's" he is managing the "Hibiscus" in Avatiu.

Under his direction the once struggling bar and restaurant facility has achieved the kind of smart service and up-market decor that one would usually associate with an exclusive clientele.

Mrs. Ina Pare of GEMI SERVICES (right)...first entrepreneur on Atiu to move into the fast foods and commercial food operations.



part of our service

Public servants, businessmen, politicians, mapus of all ages....the clientele of the Jack Cooper-managed HIBISCUS restaurant in Avatiu, Rarotonga.

Above, JOURNAL editor and Atiu College Principal David Lewis (left) discusses details of this week's Tourism Education trip to Atiu with Jack Cooper (centre) and Atiu Office Aide Tepou Boaza (right).

The first-ever venture is sponsored by the CIs. Food & Beverages Association and the Air Rarotonga domestic airline.

Nothing could be in fact further from the reality.

An average day popping in and out of the HIBISCUS will bring a visitor alongside as complete as cross-section of Rarotongan society as is offered anywhere on the island.

Mapu of all stages of development, businessmen and women of all races, professionals, public servants, politicians and tourists..they're all around at some time of the day.

What Jack Cooper and his staff have managed to do is move into a new phase of CIs. tourism.

It is on offer in several places now.

You can find it at the Portofino Restaurant where in top class surroundings, a menu can be perused which caters for all pockets and where anyone is treated like a high-spending fast laner.

You can find it at TJ's Night Club where again a top-class "overseas" atmosphere blends with local fun.

You can find it at local airline Air Rarotonga where an efficient service is offered in the midst of local colour rivalling Tarawa lockside on Outer Islands day!

So, what is it ?

It is best described as "classlessness" with a touch of "class"!

It's not on offer anywhere else where social diviseness is often the rule locally and social destruction is the end product of the tourists' activities.

High standards are on offer in Rarotonga these days in food and drink, in company, in friendliness and in presentation.

Sure, there are no symphony orchestras, no visiting stars, no rock concerts etc.

Neither, if the industry remains as it is under the direction of local managers and companies, need there be the prostitution, gambling and general "up-market" immorality that goes by the name of "tourism" elsewhere.

What there is a danger of, even in the present climate

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TOURISM

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is the creation of a polarised servant-master society.... ..what Opposition Leader Geoffrey Henry rightly terms, the "bell-hop" syndrome whereby CIers lose totally the proprietorship of their own country.

It is this danger which Jack Cooper and the newly formed Food and Beverages Association of which he is an executive member are seeking to avert.

"I think we have been concentrating too exclusively on selling the country overseas, "he says.

"Some of the promotional drive has been geared at selling a country in which local residents, especially Maoris, are just the backdrop scenery. This is no good in the long run as it will not produce a national unified industry..just an exploitive situation."

Jack Cooper recognises the dangers pointed out by Geoffrey Henry and others.

"Not only are there problems in this for society," he claims, "but the industry itself will not succeed unless it involves the whole country and ALL the people."

He cites himself as an example of a successful careerist in tourism thanks to being raised in an atmosphere (NZ) where people were educated to understand the industry.

"I was able to work my way up through all levels from waiter and kitchen hand to manager and owner", he says.

"It was because I understood the industry."

Education has been earmarked as an urgent and immediate promotional need.

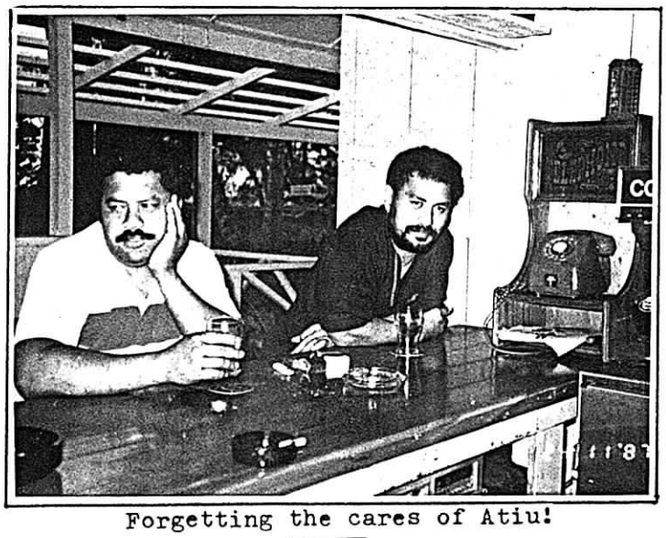
Consequently, the new Association has responded quickly to Atiuan Minister Norman George's invitation to start their drive on Atiu.

"The Minister gave me the impression he really cares about Atiu," said Jack Cooper, " and he's cleared the way for what should be a most useful first attempt to bring the people into a closer understanding of what tourism as an industry is all about."

A team of Mr. Cooper, Mr. Rex Moore of the Edgewater Hotel, Mrs Lily Henry and Mr. Sean Willis of Air Rarotonga will arrive this week in Atiu to begin a campaign of Outer Islands tourism awareness which, it is hoped, will do much to open up the industry to Maori school leavers and budding Maori entrepreneurs.

What is being seen in Rarotonga clearly now is what the industry can offer CIs citizens in terms of high standards of leisure on the cherished CIs. multiracial, classless basis.

What the industry appears now to be seeking is the means whereby the industry can be seen to be an integral part of local families' economic development.



Forgetting the cares of Atiu!

Another contented HIBISCUS patron, Joe Vakatini, landowner, businessman and top fisherman who told the JOURNAL of his plans for a new "Hong Kong" restaurant due to open in March. Manuia e Joe!

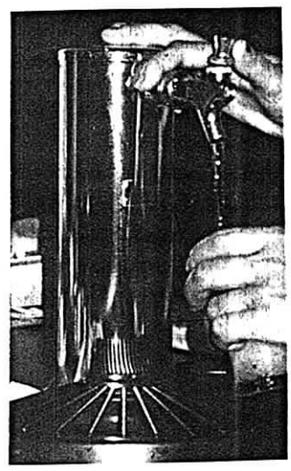
Special

The JOURNAL approached CIP Deputy President George Ellis to find out whether he proposed to stand again for his native Manihiki seat in 1989.

The former Deputy PM smiled...in a special way!

We're not quite sure why he smiled but it may have been because at the time he was enjoying a glass of his own company's new draught lager - CIs. LAGER, judged by many (at $2.00 a glass) to be just about the best value in the country at the moment.

BELOW: The superb brew in flow!



Open to all
AML
AFTER WORK
WEEK-ENDS
TONIGHT
WELCOME

NEWS Fiji – international

Fiji, still ruled at gunpoint by military dictator, the self-appointed "Head of State" Sitiveni Rabuka (left), continues to be the international issue most affecting us.

Assistant Extension Services Director at the USP Centre in Rarotonga Aaron Marsters tells the sad news that our own Regional Director of Extension Services Marjorie Crocombe tended her resignation to USP recently.

Mr. Marsters reports that, under a special arrangement however, Prof. Crocombe will be able to work out the 18 remaining months of her tenure based in Rarotonga.

Both Marjorie and her husband Prof. "Papa Ron" Crocombe will be resident in Rarotonga where they will continue working, writing and lecturing.

Meanwhile, to get a glimpse of the Fijian situation as it affects a little publicised group of Fijians, we asked vacationing CIs. scholarshipper Owen Lewis to tell us about his fellow Regional students in Canterbury University, NZ.

Owen has written in the past for CIs. publications on sport and next year will be our resident NZ-based sports writer in between completing his degree in Mathematics and Education.

In Canterbury, he is very close to the Fijian student scene not only in the academic world but also as a member of the Fiji Soccer XI in the Canterbury 1st Division.

Lower hope

(Owen Lewis)

Much, of course, has been written about the Military takeover of Fiji. Little, however, has been mentioned about the Fijian and Fiji Indian students undergoing University training in NZ.

How do they feel, these presumed leaders of Fiji tomorrow ?

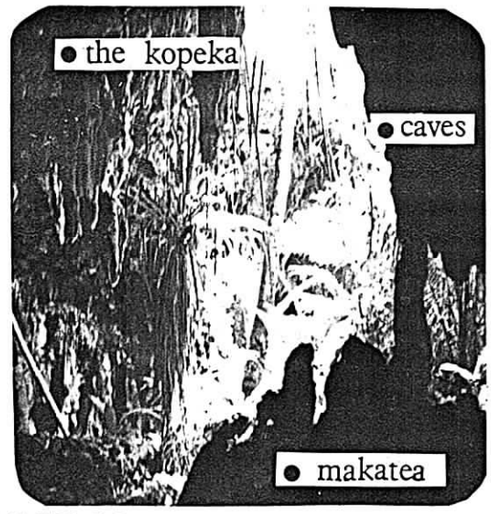
For most of them 1987 has been a year of turmoil and failure.

The worry about families back in Fiji, the anxiety of not knowing what the future now holds in store and the persistent problem of not knowing whether their various scholarships will hold good next year - these have all caused a great many students hardship, distress and discomfort.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Atiu Island

- beautiful seclusion
- tropical wilderness
- birds
- beaches.



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR THE Burnt out RAROTONGAN BUSINESS TYCOON

Spend 2 Nights or a Weekend during December or January on Tranquil ATIU

All inclusive -

Airfares,
Accommodation,
Transfers,
Bottle of wine on arrival
Cave tour,
Motor scooter,
and invitation to visit a genuine Atiu Tumunu.

2 Nights $ 225 per person
3 Nights $ 253 "
single room supplement

Book now with Air Rarotonga
Picture Perfect

(ctd...from Page 10)

To these problems have been added the normal pressures encountered in University life.

There were, in 1987, various ways of course in which each individual did manage to cope.

Although most considerably lowered their hopes for the future in Fiji, students generally found ways to cope with regular bad news from home.

There were those who hid their true anxiety by saying, "What's happening over there is their problem. I'm here! So who cares!"

Others, though, were more realistic and kept phoning home to find out what was going on.

Many asked relatives at home whether there was any way in which they could help.

These groups rallied together and approached registrars to find out if they could obtain compassionate passes.

Some were granted these.

The remaining group were the radicals who went out on protest marches declaring that they would bring about change. The results so far have not proved their claim!

The Fijian Indian community were particularly strong in this group.

Despite the violence and friction between the two communities (Fijian and Indian) at home, the majority of student groups remained in harmony.

This may have been because of the fact that they were a small racial group or it may have been legitimate in so far as they were opposed to the military coup as a whole.

LIVING

PICKS OF THE WEEK

After discussions with Mr. Freddie Keil of Radio Ikurangi, the popular Rarotonga FM station ("The Voice of Paradise") the JOURNAL is very pleased to be able to announce to readers that we shall be from now on bringing you the Cook Islands Top Ten radio hits taken from the Radio Ikurangi charts.

The CIs. Top Ten is compiled weekly by Radio Ikurangi and is the only authoritative Top Ten in the country. It is made up of the requests sent in each week to Radio Ikurangi.

For overseas readers, Freddie Keil, now a CIs citizen, was Samoan-born and in his early days was one of NZ's top cabaret and singing acts.

Although now retired professionally he still performs locally...if you give the arm a little twist or two!

EVERY WEEK

Super LOOK

THIS WEEK

1. LA BAMBA.....Los Lobos (1/2)
2. DONNA.....Los Lobos (3/1)
3. LOST IN EMOTION...Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam (2/9)
4. LITTLE LIES.....Fleetwood Mac (6/4)
5. LOOK OF LOVE.....Madonna (4/7)
6. LET ME BE THE ONE..Expose (7/4)
7. STOP THAT TRAIN...Clint Eastwood (New)
8. CRAZY.....Ice House (9/4)
9. ONLY IN MY DREAMS..Debbie Gibson (5/5)
10. LONELY TEARS.....Los Lobos (New)

LOS LOBOS

A stack of hit songs are of course coming from the soundtrack album of "La Bamba".

The three in this week are by the Latin American group Los Lobos who can be seen briefly in one scene in the smash hit movie still "packin' them in" at the Victory in Rarotonga.

For those who want to get a remarkably accurate picture of what it was like to grow up in the 50's in the birth years of teenage rock 'n roll, the film is a must - almost certainly the best of its kind ever and fully deserving the many accolades it has received.

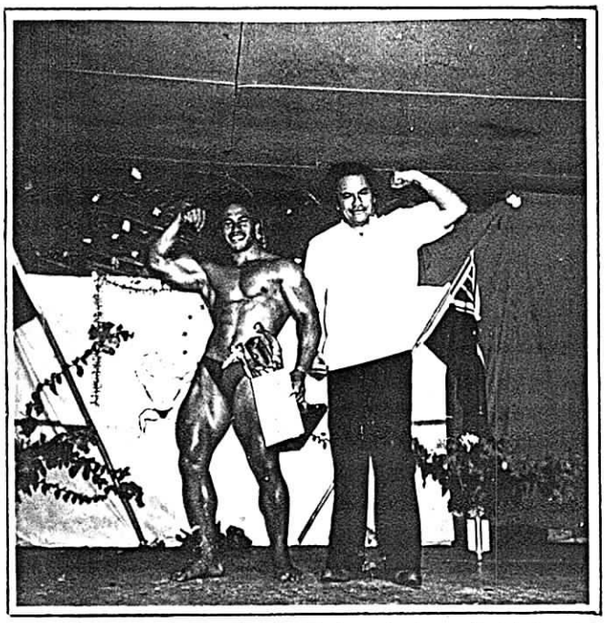
NEXT WEEK..Super Look will present a full review of the movie.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS from RADIO IKURANGI

SPORT

BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN

The Bodybuilding "Boom" shows no sign of fading away. The Power Sports in the CIs. have all gone beyond the status of "fad". They're here to stay and, as if to prove it, CIBBA took their 1987 Nationals to an O.Is. Here, direct from Mangaia is the story....



Once again...Mr. Cook Islands! And this time it's on his own native soil as Ivirua MP Pa Pokino lifts the arm in triumph of Nga Maungaati, 23 years old and heading for even further honours as CIs. Bodybuilding takes on ever-increasing international profiles.

(by Jonathan Rishworth, special correspondent in Mangaia for the Cook Islands Bodybuilding Association. This report was released exclusively to the JOURNAL by kind permission of Mr. Tony Hole, Secretary of CIBBA).

Friday night November 20 and Mangaia Fellowship Hall was the setting for the first ever National CIBBA championships to be held on an Island outside Rarotonga.

The Mr. Cook Islands title is the premier championship in the National Bodybuilding season and, in view of the massive support given to it in the past by Mangaian athletes, it was appropriate that the first Outer Island venue for the championship should be Mangaia.

Adding even greater support to the venture is the fact that the Patron of CIBBA, Papamama Pokino MP is a Mangaian and also the reigning Mr. Cook Is. of the past three years, Nga Maungaati, is similarly from the nation's southernmost island.

In excitement, enthusiasm and local interest, the championships truly "brought the house down".

Local dignitaries including CICC minister John Tangirere and Mangaian BBA Patron, Tuaiva Mautairi opened the proceedings while Pa Pokino took the opportunity to explain the significance of the Championships both nationally and to Mangaia.

After introductions by MC Teinapi Tauri, the Team Posing event opened the evening in front of a packed crowd of several hundred.

Both Tupapa and the home team from Mangaia performed to international class.

In a close-fought contest, it was the home team who edged out their Rarotonga rivals.

The judges next were faced with the compulsory and relaxed poses of the Novice class. After individual posing to music of their own choice and the final posedown, the judges gave the nod to 17 year old Tutai Papatua.

18 year old Maara Parima was second with 19 year old Tuaine Papatua third.

The standard in the novice class was impressive and offers much talent for the future.

The crowd settled back next for the Open class in high expectation. They were not to be disappointed.

After the compulsory posing, the top competitors began to stand out.

The standard of the free posing routines was very high. International standards were reached by the more experienced.

At this stage, however, Nga Maungaati already began to assert himself. His style, originality and fluidity of movement added up to a stunning display.

The performance clearly earned him the Tuaiva Mautairi Trophy for Best Poser.

Following the free posing the top three were recalled to the stage for the final posedown.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

CICC Minister John Tangirere (right) presents the National awards in front of a packed Mangaian audience.

SPORT

This clash of the giants (Nga Maungaati, Rouru Tereroa and Paiti Kareroa) brought the crowd to its feet with wild cheering as the contestants took each other on in a fiery display of competitive posing.

With the crowd still erupting into yells of encouragement, the music finally died and the tension mounted as the judges calculated their results sheets.

For his third year, Nga Maungaati took the Mr. Cook Islands title, this time in front of his own people.

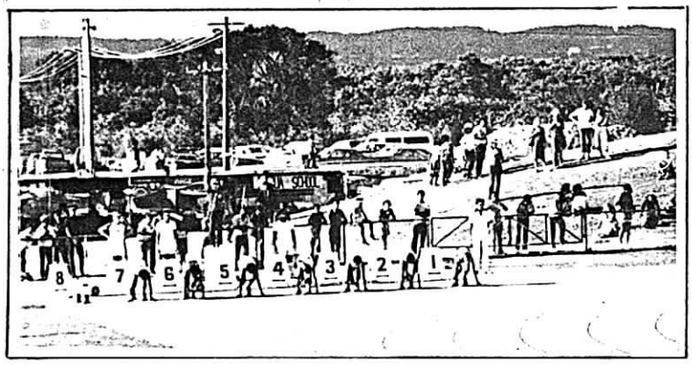
Rouru Tereva was placed second and Paiti Kareroa third.

Behind them came Caspar Mateariki, Ramania Dean and Fred Dean in 4th, 5th and 6th places.

The closing speeches of a contest which was widely judged a resounding success paid appreciation to CIBBA Secretary Tony Hole on his decision to hold the championships in an Outer Island.

Experienced observers remarked upon the rapidly increasing standards of CIs. bodybuilders and predicted an equally rapid move by many into international class in the very near future.

SP Games



THEY'RE OFF!!! Again the South Pacific Games gets under way...this time right in the heart of the Pacific's politically troubled hotspot-Noumea, New Caledonia. (ABOVE: Fiji 1979 -a time of peace which now seems a distant memory of a long lost age!)

The bad news for the Cook Islands sports authorities ended on Thursday last week.

The team WILL be going.

The government (as reported elsewhere in the JOURNAL) came up with a reported $60,000 to add to an undisclosed (at presstime) figure raised by the sports bodies.

A team of 70+ will leave next week for troubled Noumea to participate in the Games.

They will leave behind many troubled souls for whom the performance of the teams will be of minimal importance.

The numbers of those who believed the team should not be going have been increasing in the last few weeks.

The JOURNAL made its position clear a month ago. We do NOT believe the CIs should be participating. This stance we take in full knowledge that it is the belief of the FLNKS (recognised by government, opposition and the Forum as the legitimate voice of the people of Kanaky) that the Games are merely an exercise in French political propaganda, that some of the most extreme "caldoches" are involved in the administration and organisation of the Games and that, unlike our Polynesian neighbours in Tahiti, (many of whom we know would prefer to have seen the Games moved), New Caledonia is a repressive colonial regime which should have disappeared from the political map in its present form a long, long time ago. Phew!!

There have been grossly false rumours spread in Rarotonga that the FLNKS in fact, support the Games. That is categorically untrue.

There have been similar stories that the Melanesian sports authorities are at odds with their governments over the issue of participation. Our accurate information indicates that this is true, to an extent but not to the extent that there is virtually no organisation we know of which would not welcome the thought of the Games being at any other venue.

Hugh Henry offered us, however, a strong point last week.

"This could be the last Games unless we are careful," he said.

The loss of the SPG is not to be taken lightly. We thus accept the good faith of Mr. Henry in going, even though we do not approve.

And, of course, from the management of the JOURNAL, comes our very best wishes to all members of the team, in purely sporting terms, probably the best prepared we have ever sent.

For many a Games, the Cook Islands could look back at the first ever in 1963 where they had sent a thoroughly prepared all-round team.

Thankfully, there is a slow understanding amongst most of our codes that the public is not over-happy to keep funding sports people on failed internnational adventures.

Unfortunately, netball has been withdrawn from the Games as a whole so there will be no Pacific reward for the women who represented CIs. sport so magnificently at every level in the world for the past 21 years.

Equally unfortunately, a nice bunch of totally unprepared lads are off to represent us in rugby. As former National coach Terry Hagan has already written (SEARCH), there is no justification whatsoever for them going at such an enormous cost. They are lucky that the "Big Three are not present but they could still set our rugby back a decade by losing to the likes of New Caledonia and Tahiti and PNG and coming back with nothing. One hopes not but no one but the wildest gambler would bet on any other result.

Our athletes are young and won't bring back medals against adult experienced PNG and NC competition but few have worked harder and their Association has been a model of local effort, often unpublicised.

VERA

World War 6

" to all well-regulated families
The Spectator, No. 10, Monday, March 12, 1711

November 30 Monday Morning — Takutea

Pai's sunc!

That was the message flashed across the ether last Friday night and picked up by an alert Imam Metu Tutakakino, head of the Sacred Islamic Earth Satellite Station recently installed in downtown Takutea. The distress call came from one Pai a fisherman and amateur Health Worker of no fixed abode.

An exclusive shot of the Takutea Islamic Coastguard Patrol boat arriving safely after failing to find the missing Pai.

The patrol boat was a gift from the Iranian Consul in Takutea.

HOW DID IT EVER HAPPEN?

NOBODY..BUT NOBODY KNOWS!

The message was at first rather on the garbled side reports, our man in Takutea.

"What the **!!?!* are these ***!!!?!ing Atiuans playing at", was the gist of the first signals picked up by the shore-based Takutean Air-Sea rescue crack elitist paras.

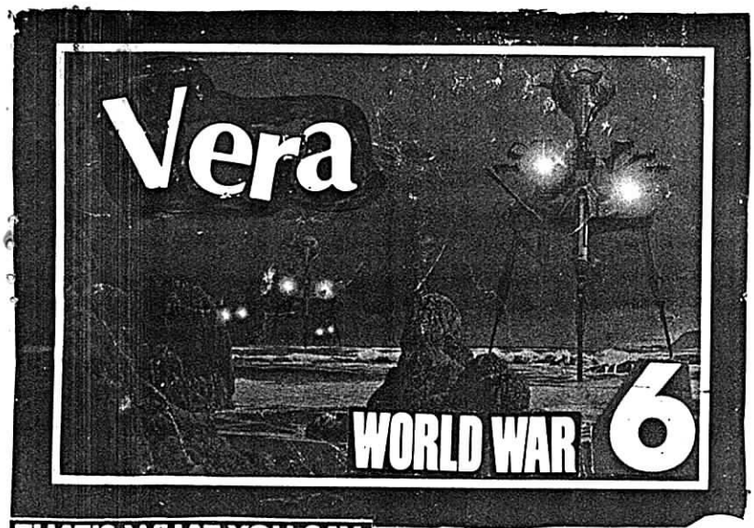
Piecing the story together from similar staccato outbursts, it appears that Pai had been invited by a group of Atiuan amateur island councillors to accompany them on a raiding mission to test the defence forces of the Islamic Republic of Takutea. Agreeing, provided he could do a spot of fishing as they went along, Pai (117) was apparently unaware of the state of war currently existing between the Islamic Republic and all its neighbours. Hence, he was caught totally unawares when, in a cunning counter manoeuvre, frogmen of the Takutean Marines towed their island out of the path of the approaching marauders. Left afloat and drifting towards Antarctica, Pai and his companions offered an immediate surrender. A ransom of 2 new $3 notes has been placed on his head and it is understood that fund-raising is underway.

Mullah Fish Treaty

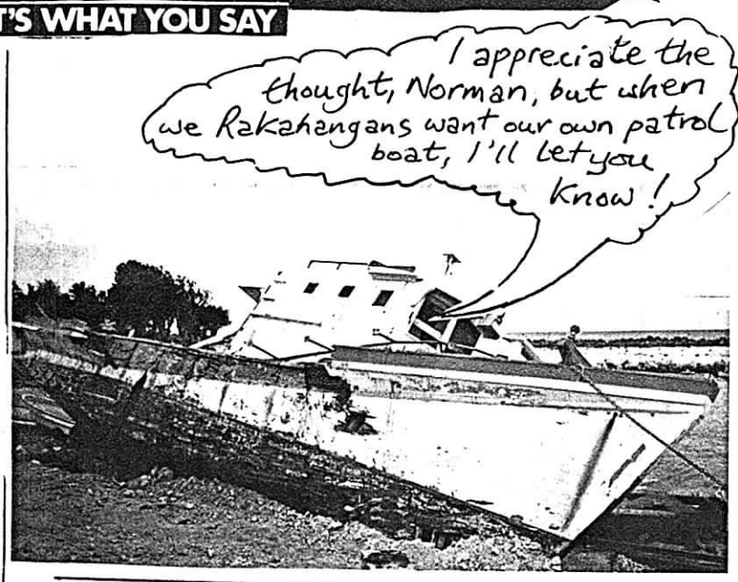
Mullah Nga Ibrahim Minister of All Sorts of Things (right) is reported to be currently visiting all sorts of places at all sorts of expense in search of a Fish with which to sign a treaty

The Mullah is travelling on all sorts of airlines and staying in all sorts of hotels racking up all sorts of bills.

Latest reports indicate that he is having all sorts of fun with all sorts of people and getting up to all sorts of tricks.



THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY

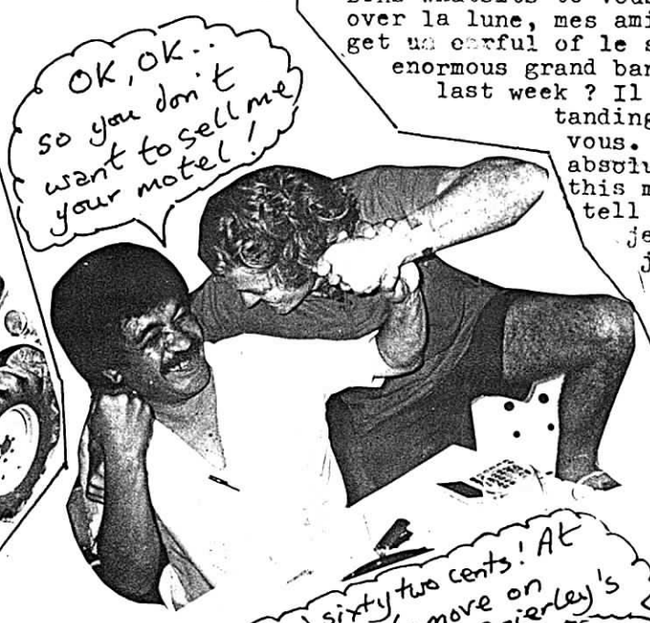


Le French View

UP VOUS

Bons whatsits to vous all. Am je over la lune, mes amis. DID vous get un earful of le stupendousement enormous grand bang nous let off last week ? Il was tres outstanding, je can tell vous. Un megatonnage absolument out of this monde. Je can tell vous that when je headr le news je came tres near to un orgasm le like de which Homme have rarement expereinced. OOOOh! Aaaaaaah! je went.

F.



THE JOURNAL & THE (Last) WORD

THE GAMES

Whatever else our South Pacific Games team returns with from Noumea, one thing can be guaranteed.

Triple point hammerings in rugby. world record goals let in by soccer: lapped ten times in track.....all that is but nothing compared with the real reason for setting off on $100,000 publically funded trips to play games.

And that, dear long-suffering rafflers and sports fans of the Cook Islands, is as we all know...to GAIN EXPERIENCE.

To make sure that this year's quarter century of SPG contestants keep up the decades-old record of GAINING EXPERIENCE throughout the planet, it has come to our notice that CISOA have made a last minute addition to their team...the MOST EXPERIENCED CIs sports traveller of them all..none other than the all-time Tupapa Great, Mr. Experience himself, Maraerenga 100 yards bronze medallist 1946, Sportsman of the Month July 1952, the almost late Tangi Fred....
We caught him in training.....

JOURNAL: I understand you've just been selected for the Games, Tangi ?
TF: That's right bro'. Just before going off to the pai, my grandson dropped round with the message to pack my boots.
J: Quite a shock, eh?
TF: Not really. I'm getting used to these last minute calls to defend the honour of the nation and gain some more experience.

The winner ("some papa'a joker") crosses the line in one of the many overseas international class races which Tangi Fred didn't win in his build-up to the Games.

It started back in 1937 at the S-W Polynesian Native Sports. I was in the mono-cycle relay.
J: And how did you get on ?
TF: I put one leg on the pedal and flung the other up over the saddle with a circular motion.
J: No. I meant did you win a medal ?
TF: Good God no! I was there for the experience. That's what it said on the raffle tickets. And I gained a lot of experience, too. Trouble was, that was the last time they held the mono-cycle event. They amalgamated everything with the Pan-Aboriginal Spartakiad. Run by the Nips it was.
J: And you were in..?
TF: The slow butterfly run.
J: That's an unusual event.
TF: True. I was, in fact the only entry.
J: So you got a medal at last ?
TF: No. But I did gain an awful lot of experience.
J: And then what happened.
TF: I married her.

NOTICE:

The winner of the Monster $200,000 raffle to send Tangi Fred to the Games is Mrs. Doreen Tangi Fred of Maraerenga holder of ticket No. 1 and winner of the 1st prize goat.

A whole swag of papa'as start a race which Tangi Fred observed from a tree (arrowed X) while gaining valuable experience.

MY WORLD

MON: I got some money from the tooth fary.
TUE: My sister went to the beach
WED: One of my pens is finish
THUR: There is a baby bird on the house top.
FRI: We had to learn our speech at school
SAT: We had a babacue